

U.S.S.N.: 09/699,003
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AMENDMENT

APPENDIX: Clean copy of claims as amended

1. (amended) A method for inducing an immune response against transformed, infected or diseased tissue comprising

selectively removing soluble cytokine receptor molecules until the transformed, infected, or diseased tissue is reduced in amount.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue is a solid tumor.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the components are removed from one blood volume.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the components are removed in multiple treatments.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising treating the tissue with an agent selected from the group consisting of anti-angiogenic compounds, procoagulant compounds, cytokines, chemotherapeutic agents, and radiation.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the agent is a cytokine and the cytokine is selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, erythropoietin, thrombopoietin, G-CSF, M-CSF and SCF.
8. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the soluble cytokine receptor molecules are selected from the group consisting of soluble tissue necrosis factor receptor-1 ("sTNFR-1"), soluble tissue necrosis factor receptor-2 ("sTNFR-2"), soluble interleukin-2 receptor ("sIL-2R"), soluble interleukin-1 receptor ("sIL-1R"), soluble interleukin-6 receptor ("sIL-6R"), and soluble interferon-gamma receptor ("sIFN-gammaR").
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the cytokine receptor molecules are removed by binding to the cytokine or to an antibody or antibody fragment immunoreactive with the cytokine receptor molecules.

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10. The method of claim 9 wherein the cytokine or antibody or antibody fragments are immobilized in a filter or column through which the patient's blood or plasma is circulated prior to being returned to the patient.

12. (amended) A system for inducing an immune response against transformed, infected or diseased tissue comprising

a device for selectively removing soluble cytokine receptor molecules, having inlet and outlet means for connection to a pump and tubing to recirculate the blood of a patient through the device.

16. The system of claim 12 wherein the device is an absorbant colum selectively removing specific cytokine or cellular inhibitors from the blood.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the cytokine or cellular inhibitors are selected from the group consisting of soluble tissue necrosis factor receptor-1 ("sTNFR-1"), soluble tissue necrosis factor receptor-2 ("sTNFR-2"), soluble interleukin-2 receptor ("sIL-2R"), soluble interleukin-1 receptor ("sIL-1R"), soluble interleukin-6 receptor ("sIL-6R"), and soluble interferon-gamma receptor ("sIFN-gammaR").

18. The system of claim 17 comprising cytokines or antibody or antibody fragments immunoreactive with the cytokine receptor molecules.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the cytokine or antibody or antibody fragments are immobilized in a filter or column through which the patient's blood or plasma is circulated prior to being returned to the patient.

20. The system of claim 12 wherein the blood is plasma.